

June 18, 2002

Stacy Mason
Bonneville Power Administration KEC-4
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED BY BPA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT LOG#: <u>mJDT-017</u> RECEIPT DATE: JUL 02 2002
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RE: McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Mason:

I have just learned of the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project that may impact the land of my Grandparents James D. and Blanche L. Fuhrman. I so appreciate my cousin's son, Jay Osborne, for alerting the family to the possibility of this project requiring the removal of some or all of the buildings on the Fuhrman Ranch on Highway 14.

We all appreciate the need for added power, but as a family we implore you to reconsider using the existing right of way instead of using the ranch land. It is difficult to think that destroying something that is appreciated by so many, and holds such strong ties for us, can be a possibility. Cousins, aunts, and uncles donate time and money to keep the yard up and the exterior of the house in repair.

My Mother, Maxine, was the sixth child of Jim and Blanche. My Father, who really never had a family life to speak of, felt that Jim and Blanche were his parents as well. So, often we would go for visits to the ranch. We kids would have races to see who could reach the gate first because it had horse bells attached to it, and we wanted to be the one to announce our arrival by shaking the bells.

We are a large family with historical, ancestral roots in this area, and much of the entire Goldendale and surrounding areas. Martin Fuhrman, father of James D., and James Beeks, father of Blanche, were early pioneers of Klickitat county and entitle us to receive certificates as descendants of pioneers.

The ranch house dates back to the mid 1800's and holds for all of us the memories of a close, large, family who came together in thick and thin to help one another and celebrate life and family. Family was certainly the most important factor for Blanche and her husband.

Some of my own personal memories are of my Grandfather having a pet deer he called Isabelle. We have pictures of Grandfather, my Father, my sister, and me with Isabelle.

I can smell the buttermilk pancakes that my Grandfather cooked on Sunday mornings. Then my Grandmother would make a spice cake or

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cookies out of the left over dough. We would gather gooseberries and Grandmother would make a cobbler out of it. There was always apple butter in the cool cupboard for the homemade bread, made on the wood stove. And, none of us will ever forget Grandma's cinnamon rolls that were the best treat a kid could want at the time.

Our Grandparents went through a lot of difficult times, and through hard work and dedication, were able to keep this ranch and their family together. Grandmother lived at the ranch by herself for many years after our Grandfather died in 1959. She was never afraid and always said that God was with her so she had nothing to fear.

Grandmother loved flowers, and when they were in season, she always had some floating in a bowl of water on the table.

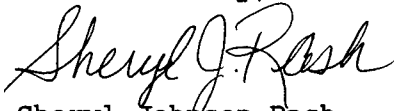
I had my first horse ride there. We had picnics in the front yard. We'd get to ride in the back of Grandpa's pickup truck with the wind blowing in our faces.

Each Memorial weekend the ranch is attended my some family. Every few years there are family reunions on Memorial weekend that I have come from Texas to attend. We do so because we are family, branches of Blanche and Jim. We come to pay tribute to them, and those who have passed, and to try to show our children what family is all about.

There are so many stories, so much history, so many happy times and of course some sad times, but we are family and it would take away from us a part of the tie that binds us together to have that land disturbed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Most sincerely,



Sheryl Johnson Rash
2226 Briarview Dr.
Houston, TX 77077
281-584-0135

cc: Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell
Congressman Doc Hastings
State Senator Jim Honeyford
Representatives Bruce Chandler and Barb Lisk
Klickitat County Commissioners Don Struck, Joan Frey and Ray
Thayer



Maxine around three years old.



Grandpa Jim, Sheryl, Kay, and Gene Johnson with Isabel, the hand raised baby deer. (About 1948)



B. Row: Maxine Fuhrman Johnson, Marian Fuhrman Beach, Blanche and Jim Fuhrman. F.Row: Kay Johnson Clow, Linda Beach Hoover, Sheryl Johnson Rash Kasse, Rod Beach. At The Ranch. (about 1950)



.This is a special picture of Blanch and Jim at the wood stove in the late 1940's or early 1950's. It shows just how they are remembered by their family. You can see that Blanche is preparing pancakes for breakfast. No need for a griddle here as the top to the stove worked as well. Notice the hot water tank. The water would flow through pipes in the fire box of the stove wherethe water would be heated, much more convient than pots of water heating on the stove. Comparing this picture to the previous kitchen picture is interesting as the wood stove was saved for all its advantages, such as winter heat, and the electric stove was added for its advantages, such as cooler cooking. The water heater is gone, replaced by an electric one in the laundry room.

Many good times were shared in the warm and welcoming kitchen as Jim and Blanche's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will be the first to tell. The kitchen is still a center of family gatherings as the house continues to be available to the family thanks to the efforts of Bus and Virgil Fuhrman, Ron and Mary Ann Power, and Don and Myrna Judy and the help and contributions of other family members.



Gene Johnson and daughter Sheryl at the Fuhrman Ranch
About 1949